

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

RSC-01 NSC-05 AECE-00 /085 W
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P R 081545Z NOV 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 605

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0399

NOFORN

FROM US REP MBFR VIENNA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET DELOFF'S COMMENTS ON
POSSIBILITY OF DATA EXCHANGE

REF: MBFR VIENNA 329

1. FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 7 PLENARY MEETING, SOVIET DELOFF
SHUSTOV TOLD US DELOFF THAT SOVIET REP KHLESTOV WOULD
BE REPLYING TO US REP CONCERNING PROPOSAL FOR DATA
EXCHANGE (REFTEL) AT THEIR NEXT BILATERAL MEETING.
HOWEVER, SAID SHUSTOV, HE WISHED TO INFORM US THAT
REPLY WOULD BE NEGATIVE. SHUSTOV SAID SOVIETS "HAVE
NO INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO DISCUSSION OF DATA, OR
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OF CRITICIZING SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF WESTERN DATA,"

UNTIL AFTER AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON WHOSE FORCES AND WHAT KINDS OF FORCES SHALL BE REDUCED. AT THAT POINT, HE CONTINUED, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE TWO SIDES TO AGREE "ON THE LOWERED FIGURES" (I.E. TOTALS REMAINING AFTER REDUCTIONS).

2. US DELOFF TERMED THESE REMARKS DISCOURAGING AND UNHELPFUL. HE SAID PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD INCREASE IF DISCUSSIONS COULD CONCENTRATE MORE ON SPECIFICS, SUCH AS DATA, THAN ON PHILOSOPHY. SHUSTOV SAID IT WAS IN FACT DISARMAMENT EXPERTS IN MOSCOW THAT PARTICULARLY OPPOSED EXCHANGE OR DISCUSSION OF DATA PRIOR TO AGREEMENT ON REDUCTION ISSUE.

3. SHUSTOV DECLINED TO REPLY TO A QUESTION REGARDING SPECIFIC SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO ALLIED DATA. INSTEAD HE COMMENTED THAT ALLIED FIGURES HAVE BEEN ADVANCED TO CORRESPOND TO, AND MEET REQUIREMENTS OF, THE CURRENT WESTERN POSITION. HE SAID IT COULD BE ASSUMED THAT DIFFERENT FIGURES WOULD HAVE BEEN ADVANCED HAD THE ALLIES NOT "CHANGED THEIR EARLIER POSITION FAVORING REDUCTIONS OF BOTH STATIONED AND INDIGENOUS FORCES." HENCE, ALLIED DATA WAS "ARTIFICIAL AND MERELY DERIVATIVE" FROM THE CURRENT WESTERN APPROACH. THIS WAS THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET OBJECTION; IT WAS NOT SO MUCH A QUESTION OF WESTERN FIGURES BEING "RIGHT" OR "WRONG". SO UNTIL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE OVERALL REDUCTION QUESTION, THERE WOULD BE NO EAST-WEST DISCUSSION OF THE SPECIFICS OF DATA.

4. US DELOFF SAID THAT THE ABOVE COMMENTS WERE UNLIKELY TO HELP THE TWO SIDES MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD, STRESSED THE USEFUL CONTRIBUTION THAT COULD BE MADE BY CONCRETE DISCUSSION OF DATA AND EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT SOVIETS GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO WESTERN SUGGESTION FOR DATA EXCHANGE.

5. COMMENT: THE NEGATIVE CHARACTER OF THESE REMARKS ON DATA EXCHANGE DOES NOT SQUARE WITH THE MORE POSITIVE

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APPROACH OF POLISH REP STRULAK ON THE SAME SUBJECT TO US DEPREP. HOWEVER, POLES OFTEN INITIALLY TAKE MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO WESTERN PROPOSALS THAN SOVIETS, ONLY TO FALL INTO LINE SUBSEQUENTLY. END COMMENT.RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GROUND FORCES, PRESS COMMENTS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00399
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740322-0091
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741159/aaaabyfa.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MBFR VIENNA 329
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <24 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET DELOFF'S COMMENTS ON POSSIBILITY OF DATA EXCHANGE
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005